

Idaho's Forest Legacy Program

2007 Update:

The Idaho Program will continue as it has for the past 5 years. The Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee continues to envision that the Forest Legacy Program will help reduce the conversions of important forestlands to non-forest uses. These lands include important economic and environmental forest values which will be irretrievably lost if the land use is changed.

In 2006 the Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee discussed and recommended that the following criteria be added to the Idaho Forest Legacy Program:

- 1) If a landowner has been awarded FLP funding (regardless of level or percentage of funding) two consecutive years, the following year the landowner's project application will not be ranked as the #1 project.
- 2) By the time of closing a proposed FLP acquisition, if a landowner cannot meet the match percentage as stated in their application, they will not be eligible to apply for another FLP project the following year.

Idaho's Forest Legacy Program reflects the broad goals of the national program by recognizing that in order to protect all forest values and the benefits that society derives from forested lands, it is first necessary to maintain those lands as forests. Inherent in Congress's authorization of the Forest Legacy Program is the recognition that most forested lands in the United States are held by private landowners and that those landowners face growing financial pressure to convert those lands to uses that will forever remove them from the forested land base. Most of those pressures arise from the demand for these lands for residential and commercial developments.

The situation is no different in Idaho, although it is perhaps not as pronounced as in more populated states nor has it persisted over as long a period. Nevertheless, a 28 percent increase in population for Idaho over the past ten years (*U.S. Census Bureau*) has had predictable results in terms of increased demand for new residences and increased values for forested lands as preferred areas for those new residences. This trend had been magnified in Idaho because well over two-thirds of the lands in the state are publicly owned and, therefore, not available for developments and because one of the great attractions to the state is the ability to live close to forested lands. As a result, some portions of the state, most notably the Boise Valley, eastern Idaho and the northern Panhandle have seen general increases in population with accompanying urbanization of nearby rural lands, while areas such as McCall, Driggs, Bonner and Kootenai Counties, and the outskirts of many rural communities have witnessed a large increase in the number of summer homes and recreational developments.

The Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee envisions that the Forest Legacy Program will help reduce the conversions of important forestlands to non-forest uses, specifically urban areas or rural home sites that would supplant the traditional uses of these lands. These lands include important economic and environmental forest values which will be irretrievably lost if the land use is changed. The essence of the program is that it will allow a one-time purchase of the "developmental rights" on private lands by the State of Idaho. The nature of the rights that

the landowner is willing to forego will be negotiated for each easement. For example, an individual landowner may be willing to sell all rights to all future residential development, while another may retain the right to build two or three homes on larger acreages, but forego the right to higher densities of houses. Either would be permissible under the program, but the price paid for the greater limitation on development will be higher than if the landowner chooses to retain some limited development rights. Once the easement is agreed upon and closed, the Idaho Department of Lands will be responsible for assuring that the terms of the easement are met. Through such arrangements, landowners can derive both immediate financial benefits and be confident, along with the public that the lands thus enrolled in the program will remain as forests in perpetuity.

Within the broad context of maintaining forested landscapes, the committee has identified specific goals and program objectives for Idaho's program. The goals of the Forest Legacy Program in Idaho include:

- Identify important forestlands and reduce conversions of them that would be inconsistent with traditional uses,
- Maintain forest sustainability and the historic uses of forested lands,
- Assist in maintaining the culture and economies of rural communities through maintaining "working" forest landscapes,
- Conserve and enhance water quality and water quantities associated with forested landscapes,
- Maintain riparian and wetland areas, and,
- Conserve and enhance wildlife habitat and maintain habitat connectivity within forested landscapes.

These are the long-range goals of Idaho's Forest Legacy Program. Continued and effective implementation of the Program will, over a period of years, result in their achievement. On a less extensive basis, however, it is important to develop specific objectives for the short term to assure progress in meeting the long-term goals. Toward this end, the Committee has identified these program objectives:

1. Focus efforts where large areas of private forestland face near-term threats of conversion to non-forest uses and where the consequences of the associated losses to important ecological, social and economic benefit from those lands are significant.
2. Encourage private landowners to work with communities, agencies, businesses and other organizations to strengthen their management of forest resources.
3. Secure additional conservation investments in private forestland.

The Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee will have an important role in providing oversight and advice for implementing this program. This committee, already in existence in the state and established by through various federal statutes that authorize federal assistance to state and private forestry programs, includes representatives of State and federal agencies as well as important interest groups (note Figure 19). For the purposes of the Forest Legacy Program, this

committee will likely be augmented by those who can represent county elected officials, realtors, plus other landowner and conservation organizations to assure a sufficiently broad perspective.

Figure 19.
Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee
Membership, Spring 2007

Alva Ozzie Osborn	Vice-Chair (representing northern Idaho family forest owners)
Arleen Pence	Chair (representing northern Idaho family forest owners)
Betty Munis	Member (representing Idaho Forest Products Commission)
Chris Schnepf	Member (representing University of Idaho, Extension Service)
Clark Christiansen	Member (representing IDL Service Foresters)
Craig Foss	Member (representing IDL Bureau of Forestry Assistance)
Daniel Pierce	Member (representing Clearwater RC&D/USDA-NRCS)
Debra Fry Marks	Member (representing southern Idaho family forest owners)
Dee Sessions	Member (representing USDA-FS, State & Private Forestry)
Edward Warner	Member (representing IDL Forest Legacy Program)
Frank Gariglio	Member (representing USDA-NRCS)
Gordon Harnasch	Member (representing Kootenai County)
Jane Wittmeyer	Member (representing Idaho's forest industry)
Jim Colla	Member (representing consulting foresters)
John DeGroot	Member (representing Nez Perce Tribe)
Kim Golden	Member (representing Panhandle Lakes RC&D/USDA-NRCS)
Kirk David	Secretary (representing IDL Service Forestry Programs)
Kurt Lyon	Member (representing Idaho Tree Farm Program)
Mark Lesko	Member (representing IDL Service Foresters)
Mary Terra-Berns	Member (representing Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game)
Mike Wolcott	Member (representing consulting foresters)
Oscar Baumhoff	Member (representing southern Idaho family forest owners)
Randy Brooks	Member (representing University of Idaho, Extension Service)
Robyn Miller	Member (representing land trust industry)
Tom Davis	Member (representing consulting foresters)

Eligibility Criteria and Priorities for Idaho's Forest Legacy Areas

Since the original publication of this Assessment of Need, the following *eligibility requirements* have been in use:

1. Project must meet the goals and objectives (identified in application) of the Forest Legacy Program review committee.
2. Project must be in an Idaho Forest Legacy Area and a forest type listed in the Idaho Assessment of Need.
3. Project must be sponsored by a federal or state agency or a land trust organization.
4. Project must be privately owned (non federal, State, or local government).
5. Project must be at least five (5) acres in size.
6. Project must include a minimum 25% cash or in-kind, non-federal match. Forest Legacy Program will fund up to 75% acquisition costs only.

7. Parcel must be 90% forestland (defined as land with trees that has at least 10% canopy cover or formally has such tree cover and is not currently developed for non-forest use).
8. Landowners agree to follow federal Forest Legacy Program requirements and implementation rules which include:
 - Accepting a State contracted appraisal that meets standard federal appraisal guidelines.
 - Managing the property by means of a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP) approved through the Idaho Forest Stewardship Program.
 - Agreeing that a funded project will not receive payment until federal funding has been secured.
 - Allowing an annual inspection for conservation easement (CE) compliance.
 - Signing a perpetual conservation easement with the State of Idaho, with the stated purposes of maintaining, enhancing, or conserving in perpetuity the forestland and conservation values of the property, which will limit or restrict one or more uses on the property (typically, the more uses that are limited or restricted, the greater the value of the conservation easement. Every conservation easement is individually tailored to address the specific characteristics of a particular property, its conservation values and the needs/desires of the landowner and the intent of the Forest Legacy Program).

The following items are general summaries of ***required restrictions*** for provisions included in the conservation easements. Exact language within the easements may differ from that provided for below:

- 1) Legal division, subdivision, or de facto subdivision of the Property through sales, leases, or otherwise, unless use of the property following the division or subdivision will be consistent with the purposes of the easement. The FLP CE is perpetual and remains with the property regardless of future ownership.
- 2) Construction or placement of any new commercial or residential buildings, structures, or mobile homes, unless identified and planned for at the time of the CE purchase, with the exception of minor non-residential buildings or structures (such as sheds, irrigation or water systems, fencing, etc), and the exception of very limited non-commercial development rights, not to sever ownership or create separate in-holdings, and not to exceed one (1) acre per site, provided that such development and use of the property are consistent with the purposes of the easement.
- 3) Storage, dumping, or disposal of toxic or hazardous waste.
- 4) Irreversibly changing, disturbing, or impairing significant natural ecological features and values, with the exception of permitted uses.
- 5) Introducing or releasing nonnative plant species. Introduction or release of nonnative wildlife species must be approved by Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
- 6) Establishment or operation of any golf course, industrial dairy, commercial feedlot, wild game farming, commercial lodging or guest ranching facilities.
- 7) In the event that a subsequent sale or exchange should result in a merger of the ownership of land and the CE by the State, the original Grantor must substitute other lands or interests in lands of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent location,

with public purposes that equal or exceed those of the disposed tract, in order to ensure that there is no net loss of value of land under FLP conservation easement.

- 8) Extraction of minerals, soil, sand, gravel or rock must be bonded, and produce and carry out a reclamation plan, whether for commercial or private use. Site disturbance at any one time cannot be greater than five (5) acres.
- 9) Installation of new utilities, utility towers, or necessary related utility structures, unless such installations and uses of the property are consistent with the purposes of the easement.

The following are ***negotiated restrictions*** to be evaluated on a project-by project basis.

- 1) Exploration for or development and extraction of gas, oil, hydrocarbons, minerals and geothermal resources by any surface or subsurface mining.
- 2) Construction of new roads or vehicle trails.
- 3) Installation of new utilities, utility towers, or necessary related utility structures.
- 4) Use for grazing or pasturing of livestock.
- 5) Use and access by the public.
- 6) Sales and exchanges of parcels, on a limited basis, for the purposes of boundary adjustments, eliminating in-holdings, consolidating ownership and/or improving the capacity of the Grantor to effectively manage the property, provided that such sales or exchanges and uses of the newly acquired property are consistent with the purposes of the easement.
- 7) Construction or placement of any signs, billboards or other advertising materials.
- 8) Use of snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, or other motorized vehicles off of roads or travel ways for property management or other purposes. If these activities are negotiated to be restricted, the Property owner retains enforcement responsibility.
- 9) Extraction of soil, sand, gravel or rock.
- 10) Establishment of compatible commercial activities, including, but not limited to, outfitting or guiding.

The following are ***criteria*** that will ***enhance application rating***:

- 1) Readiness: a signed option, draft LFSP, draft Conservation Easement and public letters of support are all completed at time of application. Meeting these criteria will significantly enhance the ranking of an application.
- 2) Higher non-federal match percentages.
- 3) Potentially lower per acre easement value. This is particularly important when considering two or more easements with similar characteristics and conservation values.
- 4) Larger contiguous acreages. Parcels less than 100 acres will rank very low unless there are significantly unique environmental values to conserve.
- 5) Designated public access uses, except in cases where primary goal is conservation of threatened and endangered species.
- 6) Connection to other publicly or privately protected lands (USFS, USFWS, IDFG, BLM, Land Trusts, FLP conservation easements, etc).
- 7) Contribution to local economies.
- 8) Contribution to environmental values by conserving habitats and species.
- 9) Protection of cultural, scenic or other public resources.
- 10) Threat of by conversion to non-forest uses within the next 3 years.

- 11) Multiple funding partners and supporters.
- 12) History of forest management use.
- 13) Tax category 6 or 7 for at least 5 years.

The priorities for Idaho's Forest Legacy Area's will continue as follows:

First Priority:	Northeast
Second Priority:	Northern Panhandle
Third Priority:	Southwest
Fourth Priority:	South Central
Fifth Priority:	Southeast
Sixth Priority:	Central

Legislative authorities for the Forest Legacy Program direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish eligibility criteria for the designation of specific Forest Legacy Areas in each state. As a result, there is a general national guidance for each Forest Legacy area --“forest lands with significant environmental and resource based values”.

There is other guidance that specifies that “important forest areas” shall contain one or more of the following important public values, as defined in each state:

1. Scenic resources,
2. Public recreation opportunities,
3. Riparian areas and wetlands,
4. Fish and wildlife habitat,
5. Known threatened and endangered species,
6. Known cultural resources,
7. Other ecological values; and/or
8. Opportunities for the continuation of traditional forest uses, such as forest management, timber harvesting, other commodity use, and outdoor recreation, as defined in the Assessment of Need.

While the foregoing guidance is useful and, indeed, necessary to the implementation of the authorizing legislation, it is somewhat unique in the latitude it gives the states to create Forest Legacy Areas tailored to that state's needs. Such terms as “environmentally important”, “threatened” and even “forested areas” are left to the discretion of each state's committee, as is the determination of “traditional forest uses”. Given this latitude, here is Idaho's approach to defining these important terms and for establishing the state's criteria for individual Forest Legacy Areas.

First, the Committee limits the concept of “threats” to private forest lands as those posed by, first, demands for this land for low-density rural residences, usually for second homes or new residences and, second, urbanization of private forestlands that are adjacent to major population centers. Idaho's Forest Legacy Program is not designed to arrest this trend or to impinge upon the rights of private landowners to sell or manage their lands, as they may desire. Neither will it provide an avenue for any state agency to directly manage private lands. It will, however,

provide a tool for willing landowners who need the revenue that development of their lands would provide, but who might also prefer that their land continue to provide the values for which it has been traditionally managed.

Second, the Committee has considered the list of potential forest values cited in the legislation that authorizes the Forest Legacy Program as noted in the foregoing paragraphs and has chosen to focus on five of them. These include timber growth and lumber industry employment, dispersed recreational use and tourism and the number of “threatened”, “endangered” and “candidate” species. In the Committee’s view, these provide a suitable mix of economic and environmental measures, as well as surrogates for other, perhaps less definable, values. For example, if, through the Forest Legacy Program, it is possible to protect important habitat for aquatic species listed under the ESA, then it can probably be safely assumed that riparian habitats are also being protected.

Third, Idaho’s unique geophysical features, climate and vegetation make the flexibility of the Forest Legacy Program important. The definition of “forests”, for example, is sufficiently broad in Idaho’s program to include the dense cedar-hemlock forests of the Panhandle to the sagebrush-lodgepole or Ponderosa pine types of southern Idaho to the pinyon-juniper forests associated with Idaho’s high desert. Idaho’s Committee has chosen to use the broad definition of “forests” (as shown in figure 1) and coupled it with non-federal ownerships of these lands as defined in the Idaho “Forest Survey” work as a basis to establish Idaho’s Forest Legacy Areas.

Finally, in order to concentrate on landscapes where the entire spectrum of forest values is likely to be the highest, the committee has determined that Idaho’s Forest Legacy Areas will include only those counties with over 10,000 acres of non-federal forestlands and those portions of counties where there is a significant ownership of private lands that has forest vegetation on it. While “non-federal” ownerships include state lands that are ineligible for inclusion in the Forest Legacy Program, there are differing definitions of “private forest lands” and insufficient data at the county level on private ownership of forestlands (as the Committee has chosen to define “forests”) to allow some level of private forestland ownership to be the determinant for inclusion in the Forest Legacy Program. As a result, the committee will use the “non-federal” ownership, which it believes to be reliable, as the initial determining factor for eligibility in the Program. The Committee does understand that state-owned lands are not eligible for inclusion in the Forest Legacy Program.

This means that nine counties, all in south Idaho and all with very little non-federal forested land will not be included in Idaho’s Forest Legacy Program: Payette, Gem, Ada, Canyon, Gooding, Lincoln, Minidoka, Jerome and Jefferson. In addition to these nine counties, there are other large portions of adjoining counties where there is generally no forest vegetation. These areas generally coincide with the boundaries of the Snake River Plain Aquifer, a relatively well-defined geologic region of the state that parallels either side of the Snake River. The area within the aquifer, which includes portions of Washington, Twin Falls, Elmore, Owyhee, Cassia, Blaine, Power, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Madison, Fremont and Clark counties, are also excluded. Finally, additional parts of eastern Owyhee County and western Twin Falls County that are outside the Snake River Plain Aquifer but which do not have forest vegetation are also excluded from the Forest Legacy Areas.

Other large areas with no forested vegetation exist throughout the state. Generally, these are valley bottoms, where forest types resume on the adjoining hills. While it is possible to define and exclude such areas, the Committee notes that many private ownerships in these areas include not only lands in the valley bottoms with no forests but also uplands where there are valuable forest types. To exclude the valleys would add an unnecessary element of confusion for landowners with forested uplands who might want to participate in the program. Finally, it is conceivable that a significant, otherwise qualified project could be developed in one of these nine counties or the additional excluded areas. If that were ever the case, the Committee would urge the applicant to submit the proposal and, if it is approved, then the Committee will seek a modification of the Forest Legacy Program in Idaho to include such a project. Figure 20 identifies Idaho's qualified Forest Legacy Areas, which include:

“Northern Panhandle” Area—Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone and Benewah counties,

“Central” Area—Latah, Clearwater, Lewis, Nez Perce and Idaho counties,

“Southwest” Area—Adams, Valley, portions of Washington, Elmore and western Owyhee, plus all of Boise counties,

“South Central” Area—Portions of Blaine, Cassia, eastern Twin Falls counties, and all of Camas County,

“Southeast” Area—Portions of Power and Bingham Counties, plus all of Oneida, Franklin, Bear Lake, Caribou, and Bannock counties, and,

“Northeast” Area—All of Lemhi, Custer and Teton Counties, plus portions of Butte, Clark, Fremont, Madison, and Bonneville counties.

There are threats to private forestlands as defined by the Committee in each of the Forest Legacy Areas. While the Committee recognizes that the levels of threats vary in each of the Forest Legacy Areas, it does not view the level of these threats in any single Forest Legacy Area as so insignificant as to further disqualify it from the Forest Legacy Program. Therefore, the Committee limits its exclusions from the Program to only those counties or portions of counties with little non-federal forestlands. For the remaining qualified counties or portions thereof, the Committee recognizes the variability of threats and forestland values by using that variability to set priorities among the six Forest Legacy Areas. The resulting priority for each area will then become one of the criteria that will help the Committee choose between competing Forest Legacy projects. As discussed previously, the criteria that the Committee has used in setting priorities for the Forest Legacy Areas include:

- ***Development pressures***, including population growth and measures that reflect conversions of forested lands in each area,
- ***Forest values***, such as timber productivity, numbers of threatened or endangered species, and recreational use, and,

- ***Economic values***, such as timber industry employment or tourism receipts.

Table 12 summarizes these values for each of Idaho's Forest Legacy Areas, as defined by the Committee. The values in the table were added to yield a composite "Forest Legacy Area Priority Score", as indicated in the far right column. Through this analysis, the Northeast Area had the highest score and will be the highest priority area for developing and implementing individual projects. The priorities for Idaho's Forest Legacy Areas is as follows:

First Priority—Northeast
Second Priority—Northern Panhandle
Third Priority—Southwest
Fourth Priority—South Central
Fifth Priority—Southeast
Sixth Priority—Central

Establishing these priorities for each of the Forest Legacy Areas in the state does not mean that projects in a lower priority area will have little chance of being accepted. The "area priority" is simply a way to help the Committee choose between competing projects of otherwise equal worth. If that were the case, then the project in the area with a higher priority would be recommended over the project in a lower priority area. Thus, the area priority becomes one of many criteria by which the Committee will review and judge individual project proposals.

Table 12. Summary of Measures to Establish Priorities for Idaho Forest Legacy Areas

Forest Legacy Area	Acres of Private Forestland x10,000	% Population Change, 1990-2000	Total New Rural Residences per 1,000 Ac. of Priv. Forestland, 1990-2001	Timber Growth (BF) Per Acre x 10	# of T&E, Candidate Species	Area of "Very High", "High" Dispersed Recreation x 10,000	% Increase in Lodging Sales, 1993-2001	# of "Lumber" Employees x 100	Forest Legacy Area Priority Score
Northern Panhandle	14	41	6	28	10	27	22	43	191
Central	13	11	1	22	13	32	-3	23	112
Southwest	4	32	6	21	15	60	33	7	178
South Central	1	21	58	11	10	22	35	0	158
Southeast	3	13	21	11	5	21	48	0	122
Northeast	1	15	58	10	9	49	54	0	196

Criteria for Reviewing Individual Project Proposals

The criteria for evaluating each Forest Legacy project proposal generally reflect those for establishing and setting the priorities for each Forest Legacy Area. First of all, each project must include forested lands (given the chosen broad definition of forests) and it must include only privately owned forestland. Beyond that, the Committee foresees applying the following general criteria to reviewing each project proposal and for assigning it a priority for final approval and funding.

Size—Is the project of sufficient size to “matter” in terms of meeting Idaho’s goals and program objectives?

Connectivity—Will the project add protected lands to other lands already protected, thus creating a larger area or is the project geographically isolated?

Contribution to local economies—If the project lands are protected, will there be additional or maintained contributions to local economies?

Contribution to environmental and cultural values—What is the magnitude of fish, wildlife, scenic, cultural, watershed and other environmental or cultural values that will be protected if the project is approved?

Threats—What is the scope and immediacy of threats to the continued existence of the project land as a forest?

Alternative protection methods—Does the land qualify for range or farmland protection programs or can the same environmental values be obtained through such an alternative as a “habitat conservation plan”?

Support—What is the level of public support, as indicated by availability of matching funds, partners for the project and local support for it?

Forest Legacy Area Priority—What is the priority of the Forest Legacy Area in which the project is located?

Committee members will rate individual project proposals independently. They will arrive at a score based on the applicants responses to the criteria listed above. Most of the information will be provided through the proposal itself, while the Committee will answer some of the questions. For example, it will be up to the Committee to assess the value of the “connectivity” of the project in question with other protected areas. To help answer such questions, the Committee may use agency and private information such as The Nature Conservancy’s eco-regional planning data that can help determine if a proposed project is adjacent to other protected areas or includes particularly significant habitat or wildlife values. Those projects with the highest scores will receive top priority for funds as they become available.

Program Implementation and Administration

In Idaho, the Forest Legacy Program is being administered by a Program Coordinator working for the Idaho Department of Lands Bureau of Forestry Assistance. Since acceptance into the program in 2002, this position has been funded at 2/3 equivalent of a full time position (in other words, generally a 24 hour work week). At this time, this is adequate for program workloads. Workloads in the future are undetermined and staffing

level will need to be reassessed on a regular basis. . The Idaho Forest Legacy Program Coordinator works directly for the IDL Bureau of Forestry Assistance under the general direction of the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry branch and with the guidance of the Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee. The Committee and the Department of Lands seek technical and other advice from agencies such as the Department of Fish and Game and organizations such as the Idaho Association of Counties or various industry or conservation organizations.

Program Funding—Ongoing funding for the program continues to be an issue for the Department of Lands. Even though some of the costs of developing the program are supported through federal funds, there is no guarantee that future federal funds will be available. The costs of supporting the Committee's work to review and recommend projects and for assuring that the provisions of the various easements approved and closed are adhered to must be borne by the Department. Moreover, these costs will increase each year, if only because the task of monitoring compliance with Forest Legacy easements will increase by the new ones approved each year. Since these easements must be maintained and will be held by the State in perpetuity, this expense of the Program could grow quite large.

Forest Stewardship Plans—Each Forest Legacy project must be accompanied by a "Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan". At a minimum, the management plan must convey how the landowner will continue to provide or protect the forest values that would be eliminated if the lands were not enrolled in the Forest Legacy Program. It will need to include appropriate maps and data to define the forest values to be protected and the terms of the easement that will protect them.

Project Evaluation—The Forest Legacy Subcommittee of the Idaho Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee is responsible for evaluation and scoring of all project applications. The subcommittee is made up of the Idaho FLP Program Coordinator, various agency representatives, and other interested parties. The general method for project evaluation by the subcommittee is to distribute applications for review, visit the sites if possible, and complete a weighted scoring matrix based on the National FLP project scoring guidance. This produces a ranking of projects that is then submitted to the full committee for approval.

Program Promotion—Since inception, the program has been promoted via the internet, with various news releases, and by the Program Coordinator speaking at various functions. The Idaho Department of Lands maintains up-to-date information on its internet home page including the Assessment of Need, Project Application Material, Program Announcement, Project Eligibility Criteria and information on Land Trusts operating in Idaho. This has consistently resulted in a pool of quality proposals for the Committee to consider.

Professional Assistance—The Committee [has](#) developed relationships with legal counsel, title companies, land trusts and consultants who can both assist landowners who would like to propose a project and who can negotiate and close them once they are developed.

Figure 20.

